

The Facts on

Venomous Snakes

in South Carolina

South Carolina is home to six types of venomous snakes.* While snake bites in S.C. are rare, it is important to recognize and avoid venomous snakes.



Copperhead

The most common venomous snake is found throughout the state, in a variety of habitats.



Water Moccasin/Cottonmouth

Named for the white cotton-like appearance of their open mouths, these snakes are found in wetlands. Cottonmouths are more likely to stand their ground if threatened, but may be the least likely to bite.



Pygmy Rattlesnake

Unlike larger rattlesnakes, its rattle is difficult to see and can almost never be heard. It is found throughout the state (except for the mountains.)



Timber/Canebrake Rattlesnake

Timbers are dark, found only in the mountains and are considered rare. Though they vary in color and name, timbers and canebrakes are the same snake. Canebrakes are uncommon, but may be seen throughout the state.



Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

The largest venomous snake in the state is found along the lower coast, though rarely.



Coral Snake

The most venomous snake in the state is also the rarest. Don't confuse it with the similarly colored non-venomous scarlet kingsnake. Remember this rhyme, "Red touches yellow, kill a fellow; red touches black, friend to Jack."

Snake Bite First Aid

- Seek immediate medical attention for any snake bite
- Try to remember the color and shape of the head (this may help with treatment)
- Keep still and calm, this may help slow the spread of venom

Do NOT:

- Try to pickup/trap the snake
- Wait for symptoms to appear
- Apply a tourniquet
- Slash the wound with a knife
- Suck out the venom
- Apply ice/immerse the wound in water
- Drink alcohol or caffeinated beverages

It is ALWAYS best to leave ALL snakes alone.

